CHAPTER – V
FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

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5.1 Introduction

A Scientometric analysis of social science literature has been undertaken to identify the growth of literature, collaborative research trend, ranking of social science journals and obsolescence of social science literature based on the two different sources of data for different years for the purpose of analysis and to test the applicability of bibliometric laws. This study has made an attempt to examine social science research in India as reported in Wilson Social Science Abstracts and two important primary Indian social science journals viz., “Indian Social Science Review: A Multidisciplinary Journal” and “Research Journal of Philosophy and Social Sciences”, both publishing from New Delhi for a period of five years (1999-2003). However emphasis has been laid on six social science subject. The present study was undertaken to make an attempt to recognize certain characteristics of Indian social science research literature by using bibliometric techniques in order to identify the trends in the following aspects of the literature over a study period, say (i) growth pattern(1983-1998), (ii) collaborative trend of authors(1989-1991 and 1997-1999), (iii) ranking of social science journals for the period of five years(1999-2003) and (iv) obsolescence of social science literature for the period of five year (1999-2003). In this chapter an attempt has been made to give a resume of the findings of the study as well as to deduce final conclusions there from.
5.2 Summary of the Findings

The important findings of the research study carried out through Scientometric analysis of social science research in India are summarized as below:

1. Mean relative growth rate of social science literature has shown a declining trend from 0.001272 to 0.0058. Consequently, mean doubling time has increased.

2. The coverage of Political Science literature reported in Wilson Social Science Abstracts is too less compared to other subjects.

3. Regarding exponential growth rate of social science literature, Psychology stands first in order.

4. There is a high positive degree of relationship between Economics and Anthropology, Political Science and History at .05 level, the remaining subjects have high positive correlation.

5. Logistic model is likely to be full applicable to the growth of Indian Economics and Psychology literature as well as to the growth of Chinese Economics, Psychology and Sociology literature. Power model ($a_2 = 0$) is fully applicable in the case of growth of Indian Sociology literature.
6. The proportion of collaborative publication has shown a consistent growth with time in all the four subjects except Political Science and Sociology.

7. The proportion of two author publications was more in history followed by Economics, Psychology and Sociology. Higher percentage of three author publications was found in Psychology, followed by Anthropology, Sociology and Economics. Higher proportion of more than four author publications was found in History followed by Sociology, Anthropology, Economics and Political Science (vide table-13).

8. The proportion of single-author publications has increased from 37.58 percent during 1989-1991 to 62.42 percent during 1997-1999, the average percent being 58.78 percent for the entire period.

9. The proportion of two author publications has increased from 40 percent during 1989-1991 to 60 percent during 1997-1999, the average percent being 17.75 percent for the entire period.

10. The proportion of three-author publications has increased from 27.27 percent during 1989-1991 to 72.73 percent during 1997-1999, the average percent being 10.85 percent for the entire period.

11. The proportion of four-author publications has increased from 31.25 percent during 1989-1991 to 68.75 percent during 1997-1999, the
average percent being 12.62 percent for the entire period. We found some change in the frequency of all types of co-authored publications by number of authors in different proportion, in all subjects as we move from the single author publications to the four & above author publications. In Anthropology the relative frequency of the single author publications and multi author publications has increased except in two author publications. In Economics, History and Political Science, the relative frequency of multi authored publications has increased year by year. In Psychology, there was not much difference between relative frequency of the three and four & above author publications. In Sociology the relative frequency of single and multi author publications has increased in all years.

12. The trend in the computed values of CI and DC of different period blocks is almost consistent, reflecting growing collaboration and pointing towards increasing professionalisation in social sciences in India with time.

13. The most frequently preferred journals (wide table-19) for social science research in India are 'Economic and Political Weekly' which accounts for the 38.20 per cent of citations, followed by 'American Psychologist' which accounts for the 5.06 per cent of citations and 'Journal of Political Economy,' an Economics journal
which accounts for 3.35 per cent of citations. The first ten journals account for the 60.07 per cent of the total citations. These ten journals may be considered as core journals. The last 47 journals account for only 26.32 per cent of citations which may be least important journals. Economics journals are most cited journals in social science research, followed by journals in Political Science and Psychology.

14. Bradford’s Law goes well with social science journals.

15. The citation frequency distribution in social science journal articles and books follows a negative exponential pattern which has been proved statistically by applying K–S Test for the 0.01 level of significance and other mathematical formulae.

16. The average half-life of the literature found the lowest in the case of journal articles and highest in the case of books.

17. The obsolescence factors such as Annual Ageing, Half-life, Mean-life, Utility and Corrected Obsolescence for the journals and books varies from one another.

18. Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai tops the Institutions with the highest (828) number of social science publications. This Institution alone is responsible for the 20.68 per cent of the total publications, followed by Gujarat Institute of
Development Research, Ahmedabad, a premier organization, which is recognized and supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, which is endowed with the responsibility of bringing out publications suitable for social science research comes, next with the 11.89 per cent of publications.

19. Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai; Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad; Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Delhi and Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram are the foremost publisher of publication in social science. These Institutions accounts for the 61.14 per cent of total publications.

20. It is found out that only ten Institutions out of seventeen (selected for the study) have undertaken projects.

21. Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai carried out the highest number (25.46%) of projects, followed by Institute of Social and Economic Change (22.14%) and Institute of Economic Growth (20.64%). These three Institutions together have undertaken more than fifty per cent of the total projects.

22. Except G.B.Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad (table-29), all other Institutions published social science books. Indian Council of
Social Science Research published the highest number (27.67%) of social science books, followed by Institute of Economic Growth (13.36%) and Centre for Social Studies (11.45%). O.K.D Institute of Social Change and Development published very less number (0.24%) of books.

23. In respect of publication of Working Papers, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram stands first (35.63%) in order, followed by Gujarat Institute of Development Research (18.77%) and Institute of Development Studies (18.14%). O.K.D. Institute of Social Change and Development stands last (0.13%) in order.

24. The Majority of social sciences Institutions in India publish social science journals. Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi has been publishing 6 social science journals (31.58%), followed by Indian Social Institute, New Delhi (21.05%) and Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai (57.90%).

5.3 Further Research

In view of the present research study, further research in the area of social science research in India can be extended to the following facets.

1. Gender wise contribution of literature in the field of social science in India;
2. Institutional and individual research productivity in the field at national and international level through various communication channels;

3. The relationship between research collaboration and funding agency in social science;

4. Co-citation and bibliographical strength of literature;

5. Impact of social science research literature on the branches of social sciences, and a comparative study the impact factor, discipline impact factor and source weightage factor in order to determine best method suitable for the ranking of social science journals required for the selection of journal titles in the various social science research libraries.

5.4 Conclusion

Bibliometric laws and social science literature have all provided valuable results, and are very useful in understanding the communication pattern, information transfer, use, the subject literature of social science, which in turn have several implication for libraries and information centres, especially in documentation at all levels in the field of social science. The study of obsolesce of literature has implication for the coverage of social science journals and books which are primarily devoted to social science research and are helpful especially for the selection of types of information
sources in the library for the dissemination of Current Awareness’ Service, Selective Dissemination of Information, Translation Service, Digest service etc. The empirical testing of the Law of Bibliometrics is another contribution of the study, which has implication for further understanding of the theory of Bradford’s Law of Scattering. The Ranking of Journals, which is a new criterion for selection of social science journals, is yet another important outcome of the study, which has implication for selection and acquisition of social science journals for libraries. The study of research productivity of Indian social science institutions is another significant outcome of the study, which gives a bird’s eye view of the extent of research activities and research productivity of Indian social science Institutions in India.